

THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC

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be used toward the construction of the much-needed high schools. Although this sum will by no means be adequate for the purpose, it is a nucleus for better things.

That something will have to relieve the present unfair condition regarding the high school there is no doubt. Residents in both the North and South ends of the city are practically out of reach of the High School on Grand avenue. Kansas City, with a third of the population, can boast more graduates from the High School Department.

Let the \$105,000 now in sight be spent toward relieving present conditions. A just appreciation of the value of a high school education demands that there shall be no delay.

DID IT THEMSELVES.

Mr. Chauncey I. Filley, in his Thursday night speech before the Good Government Republican League Club, logically fastened upon the local Republican organization under the evil dominance of Ziegenhain the responsibility for the repeal of the election law of 1895, for the enactment of the Nesbit law in its stead, and for the passage of the police law now in effect.

"The false cry of Nesbit and police law will not either excuse or exonerate you," declared Mr. Filley, addressing himself to the present management of the Republican party in St. Louis, "for your gang is responsible for both." And in considering the causes leading to the change of election laws he rightly indicted Wurzburgism as creating the necessity for the present law. "The appointment of Wurzburg," he asserted, "was another nail in the coffin of the pretenders to political purity. To that one thing is due the repeal of my election law. There has not been an honest Republican primary since 1897."

As for the passage of the police law, Mr. Filley remembers that this was brought about through Republican lust for the spoils of office. "The greed after 'nuts,'" he points out, "and to get one-half of the 100 policemen asked for in 1895-96, resulted in the hungry nutmen getting nothing, and obliging the Board of Police Commissioners to go to Jefferson City and get 500—and the nut-hunters got nothing but the Wittenberg bill and increased taxes for the city, and none of the police nuts."

It should be of benefit to the rebuked and chastened Republicans of St. Louis to bear these plain truths from Republican lips. They are truths which the Republic uttered again and again during the recent campaign, but it was possible then for the Ziegenhain gang to charge that the utterances were due to Democratic spite and malice. Now, however, proclaimed by a Republican, they must needs be taken to heart by Republicans. Wurzburgism in the Election Board compelled the enactment of the present election law. The Ziegenhain gang's scramble for the patronage of police appointments brought about the enactment of the present police law.

These truths now enunciated by Mr. Filley are earnestly commended to the attention of local Republicans. Blinded by the misrepresentations of the Ziegenhain organ during the recent campaign, Republican voters should now, after a defeat that was inevitable, perceive clearly the causes of that defeat. It was a boomerang that laid the party out—the boomerang of the Globe-Democrat's bunko campaign issue of the election and police laws, both made necessary by Republican corruption and Republican greed.

ELECTION FRAUDS.

At every step in news and comment regarding the municipal campaign, from the first nomination to the present day, The Republic has been right. This paper does not assume to possess unusual penetration. It has simply been honest—has had no axes to grind, no bigotries over which hysteria could be generated. Before the election The Republic predicted that a percentage of frauds would be committed; not because the law is faulty, but because in a crowded city there are always certain persons who see and use opportunities of fraud.

It called for vigilance to prevent fraud, in the place of mountings over imaginary troubles.

After the election The Republic pointed to the indications of fraud, urged prompt prosecution and showed that the percentage was very small in proportion to the total vote.

Messrs. John D. Johnson, Republican, and James L. Blair, Democrat, have now corroborated The Republic's statements.

These two gentlemen, lawyers of high rank and known energy, were employed by a body of citizens representing practically unlimited capital to secure evidence of fraud and press prosecution. For several days preceding the election the advertisement of the rewards they were authorized to offer appeared conspicuously in all St. Louis newspapers. Volunteers assisted their purpose during election day. Every legitimate effort was made to obtain knowledge of election law violations.

Yesterday these two lawyers sent to the Circuit Attorney the results of their labors. They report fifteen cases which they consider good—that is, these cases are in their hands to be more exhaustively investigated thirty-six doubtful cases. They were called upon to look into 124 complaints all told.

It is conceivable that there was a gross, or even unusual, amount of fraud when, after such conspicuous notice, after every party suspicion and passion had been excited on one side, after two able lawyers and a number of volunteer assistants had raked the city, the total result was 124 complaints, thirty-six doubtful cases and fifteen prima facie good ones?

After elections in the past there have been as many as 100 indictments for election frauds. It seems that, if the Globe-Democrat really pushes the contention to a specific conclusion of fact, the election of April, 1901, will go on record as one of the cleanest in the percentage of fraud.

MR. BRYAN'S ERROR.

Democrats in Missouri deplore Mr. Bryan's continued misapprehension of the municipal election in St. Louis. Misapprehension would not be so bad if he did not persist in misrepresentation. A wrong personal view on the part of Mr. Bryan might be cured by matured personal reflection. But misrepresentation, caught up and widely circulated by Republican organs, tends to disorganize and weaken the Democracy.

It is a pity that Mr. Bryan, with whom

Missouri Democratic voters, loyal to him in two national campaigns, are reluctant to disagree, cannot bring himself to take the word of Senator Vest, Secretary of State Cook and most of the party press on a matter of Missouri politics.

In the current issue of the Commoner Mr. Bryan expresses regret that party lines were not strictly drawn, so that the plurality of McKinley in St. Louis last fall could have been handed down to the Republican local candidate this spring. Few Missouri Democrats will coincide with that opinion.

Mr. Bryan also insists that the nomination and election of Mr. Wells disclosed a plot to make a minority faction supreme in Missouri Democratic politics. The editor of the Commoner should know his facts. The nomination of Mr. Wells was not plotted at all. The Republic did not name Mr. Wells, assuredly, or specially contemplate his nomination, until he was announced as the choice of a conference of leaders representing all party elements, including the particular friends and appointees of ex-Governor Stephens.

It is an open secret that the strongest personal pressure in that conference for Mr. Wells came from gentlemen who led in 1893-96 the movement in St. Louis for the currency platform afterwards adopted at Chicago. The "mugwump" or "good-citizen" element in the conference did not present or demand Mr. Wells, though they were glad to support a man of such character when he was presented and pressed by others. Mr. Wells himself knew nothing about the selection until notified afterwards.

If there was a plot it was conceived and managed by those who led the free-coinage movement in St. Louis eight years ago.

These facts are known to every Missouri Democrat of prominence—to every body, indeed, who remembers what he has read in the newspapers.

Of course, there was Democratic rejoicing when a united party assisted a municipal condition last fall to cut down a Republican plurality of 15,000 to practically nothing. Of course, there was rejoicing when the same method of uniting the party was again tried this spring and was able to attain a still greater triumph. Missouri Democrats rejoiced. Messages of congratulation came from dried-in-the-wool Democrats in Texas and in all the other Southern States without which Mr. Bryan would have had almost no electoral votes at all when he was last a presidential candidate.

It is a matter of sincere regret that Mr. Bryan mourns over a Democratic victory when nine-tenths of those who voted for him are jubilant.

The Globe-Democrat thinks The Republic should not push the donation of Exposition stock to the Public Library Board because it urges "giving away something in which it happens to have no assets of its own." But it should remember that the Exposition stock is something in which nobody has assets of any value. That is exactly the ground on which The Republic is calling for donations. The Exposition stock is absolutely worthless to its present holders but it can be utilized for the public good by the Library Board.

The Globe-Democrat is packing and filling on the question of restoring Missouri Park, with characteristic manifestations of uncertainty and hesitation. It is evidently inclined to antagonize the project for the one simple reason that it is generally a good and sufficient inducement to develop its hostility. The Republic is openly in favor of any scheme that will restore the park, and enthusiastically in favor of putting the Public Library building in its center. As usual, that is sufficient to arouse the opposition of the esteemed Globe-Democrat.

After J. Pierpont Morgan has been in their midst a few days the English financiers who are providing protection for the trustmaker may ask for a few Scotland Yard detectives themselves.

As a cold-blooded business proposition the movement to endow Kentucky University by having friends take out insurance policies in its favor seems to be a dead sure cinch.

It may be stated unofficially that the St. Louis patrolman who has resigned his position to become a practicing physician resigns all claims of being a dead shot.

It is said that the Gainsborough hut will again come in style owing to the discovery of the picture of the Duchess of Devonshire. So soon after Easter, too.

There is a financial qualification necessary before a vote can be cast for World's Fair directors with which every subscriber should hasten to comply.

Small and large stockholders in the old Exposition should alike join the Exposition grounds as a Public Library site.

Gangsters are complaining because they are not invited to camp in the Mayor's office. But the people who elected Rolla Wells are not complaining.

Any one who stands in the way of good government during the World's Fair period is in imminent danger of being run over and badly hurt.

Pay the assessment on your World's Fair subscription and cast a proud St. Louisian's vote for the World's Fair Board of Directors.

On April 2 last the people of St. Louis declared for good government. The man now in the Mayor's office will see that they get it.

A handsome Public Library building in beautiful grounds must take the place of the old Exposition, which is now only in the way.

Pay up your World's Fair assessment and thus justify the pride you felt when you subscribed to the World's Fair capital stock.

Now that Mrs. Nation will debate with Carl Browne, there is every prospect that Helen D. Nation will be Dunn Browne.

It's all right for the House of Delegates to prepare to "do business," but it must be the people's business exclusively.

Mayor Wells proposes to do his full duty and to see that those under him do theirs. This means good government.

REVIEW OF THE OFFICES IN THE CITY GOVERNMENT.

Something About the Different Departments and the Salaries Attached to the Various Positions in Each.

In the course of a year about 14,000 persons draw money in one way or another from the city of St. Louis. All of these are not office-holders or employees of the city. Many are simply paid for supplies or on contracts.

The Wittenberg bill, passed by the Municipal Assembly at Mayor Ziegenhain's dictation, added something like \$100,000 to the salary scale in the Street Department. In various ways the late unaimed administration was responsible for finding many jobs which cost the taxpayers dearly and added to the city's debt.

A political change such as took place at the late election, means a great deal to those in office and those on the outside who are trying to break in. All the city offices were in the hands of Republicans prior to the election last November. Then their entire ticket was defeated and all the places made vacant thereby have been filled with Democrats. The election of a clerk of the Board of Health to the office of the Board of Health means a great deal to the Republicans. It is not a case of the tail going with the hide, but the hide going with the tail. The presumption is that before Mayor Wells and the other Democratic officers take a rest and a day off they will clean out most of the Republicans remaining at the City Hall. It may take two years to do this. It is no secret that so far as the new elective heads of the various departments are concerned, they do not intend to leave a Republican in office.

There is no means of giving exact figures to all the changes that may be effected by the new administration. It seems certain that a good many retrenchment measures will be inaugurated. The Street Department was largely made a retreat for ward workers, while the other Democratic officers